

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

For Further Information, Contact:

Assistant U. S. Attorney Paul Cook (619) 557-5687

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - October 24, 2006

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Louis Ray Perez and Lydia Dawn Webster, were sentenced yesterday in United States District Court in San Diego by the Honorable John S. Rhoades for convictions of transportation of illegal aliens, resulting in death, and bringing in illegal aliens for financial gain. Judge Rhoades sentenced Perez and Webster to serve 70 months and 37 months in custody, respectively. Judge Rhoades also ordered each defendant to serve three years of supervised release following release from prison.

According to the plea agreements and court records, on April 4, 2006, Perez, with Webster as the front seat passenger, drove a Ford Probe to a United States Border Patrol checkpoint on westbound Interstate 8 near Campo, California. Three illegal aliens from Mexico were lying down in the back of the car. At the checkpoint, Perez was directed to the secondary inspection area; but instead of complying, he sped away from the checkpoint. Despite having a deflated rear tire as a result of agents' deploying a tire deflation device, Perez drove at an extremely high rate of speed, exited the Interstate, and continued to flee on Old Highway

80. Border Patrol agents followed the car, but out of concern for public safety, did not engage in a high-speed pursuit. Subsequently, Perez lost control of the car and it flipped over, throwing passengers from the vehicle.

One of the smuggled aliens, Benito Alfonso Alvarado-Amezcu, was pronounced dead at the scene from injuries sustained in the accident.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Cook, who prosecuted the case, the defendants each pled guilty to the charges in federal court in May and June 2006.

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 06CR0899-R

Louis Ray Perez

Lydia Dawn Webster

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Louis Ray Perez

One Count - Transporting Illegal Aliens Resulting in Death, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii),(v)(II), and (a)(1)(B)(iv)

Three Counts - Bringing in Illegal Aliens for Financial Gain in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii)

Lydia Dawn Webster

One Count - Transporting Illegal Aliens Resulting in Death, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii),(v)(II), and (a)(1)(B)(iv)

Two Counts - Bringing in Illegal Aliens for Financial Gain in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii)

AGENCY

United States Border Patrol